

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12, which starts with “US Patent 6,345,258” with the following amended paragraph:

US Patent ~~6,345,258 to Pickens~~ 6,393,410 to Thompson discloses a process and a system for listing information relating to a construction project over a computer network. The system estimates the progress of a construction project over a computer network. The first step in the process starts when an architect or contractor enters information relating to construction project into an online database. This online database is stored on a server creating a series of quantities for each of the construction projects and a system host presents a series of quantities for each of the construction projects. Next, users such as contractors, subcontractors or construction managers can purchase and download these quantities and a construction report. These quantities are presented in a unique electronic spreadsheet template. Once the users have this template with the quantities included, they can bid on each construction project either online or through any other communication means. This network based system host coordinates the construction project, providing a template suitable for bidding; and provides relevant information to engineers, architects, builders, contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers. No disclosure is contained by the patent concerning a contractor certification system. Moreover, the system disclosed by the patent does not probe into the operation and business practices of the contractor to determine surety and lender risks.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4, which starts with “US Patent 6,396,410” with the following amended paragraph:

US Patent ~~6,393,410 to Thompson~~6,345,258 to Pickens discloses an information system for new homebuilders. The information system is used by builders that reuse house plans or product information for new homes that they build. Three distinct steps in the process are used as the basis for the information model: product development, procurement and order fulfillment; and accordingly, the software is divided into three modules. The option module is used at on-site sales offices, facilitating the automated selection of defined builder options, creating a customized completed house design package with pricing. The procurement/contracting module is used to maintain quotes and contract information on subcontractors. The production/scheduling module is used to manage the activities of all subcontractors, to ensure timely and efficient meeting of construction deadlines and the approval of all work as completed by subcontractors for payment. The information system uses semantic database tools and stores information of objects, relationships, and role players at levels of detail required for building a new home economically and at predetermined project levels. This information system is used by home builders for pricing a new home based on procurement data. It monitors home build progress against set time levels and negotiated costs. The fulfillment module allows the sales person to negotiate with a customer using the price provided by the procurement module, and create a contract. The fulfillment module also tracks the progress of the project. No disclosure is contained by the patent concerning a contractor certification system. The system disclosed by the patent does not probe

into the operation and business practices of the contractor to determine surety and lender risks.